

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW *SIALIA* FROM MEXICO.

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Some time ago Dr. Louis B. Bishop sent me for examination four specimens of a bluebird from northeastern Mexico. Upon comparison with abundant material these proved to represent a new subspecies of *Sialia sialis*. Dr. Bishop has generously donated these specimens to the Biological Survey collection in the United States National Museum, and has permitted the writer to present the accompanying description. This new race may be called:

Sialia sialis episcopus*, subsp. nov.

Chars. subsp..—Similar to *Sialia sialis fulva*, but blue of upper parts rather darker, and anterior lower parts very much darker.

Description..—Type, adult male, No. 241,188, U. S. N. M. (No. 23,808 Louis B. Bishop); Santa Engracia, Tamaulipas, Mexico, December 15, 1911; F. B. Armstrong. Interscapulum rich blue, between methyl blue and spectrum blue, the feathers with a few rusty edgings; rest of upper parts, including upper surface of tail, lighter blue, between light methyl blue and salvia blue, the tail somewhat duller, more grayish; wing-quills terminally fuscous black, shading basally to pale brown, most of the outer webs and all but the marginal half of the inner webs, together with all of the superior wing-coverts, blue like the upper surface; sides of head blue like the pileum, but somewhat paler and mixed with grayish brown; chin mixed whitish and dull grayish blue; throat, breast, and sides dull chestnut, between chestnut and auburn; abdomen and crissum white; lining of wing light gray mixed with white and washed with blue.

Geographic distribution..—State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, north to the lower Rio Grande Valley in central southern Texas.

Remarks..—This very interesting new form is in general characters somewhat intermediate between *Sialia sialis sialis* and *Sialia sialis fulva*, combining, as it does, the light, more or less greenish, upper parts of the latter with the deep-colored anterior lower parts of the former. It differs from *Sialia sialis sialis* conspicuously in its lighter, more greenish blue upper surface; and from *Sialia sialis guatemalae* in its much darker lower

* Named for Dr. Louis B. Bishop.

parts. The female of *Sialia sialis episcopus* differs from the female of both *Sialia sialis fulva* and *Sialia sialis guatemalae* in the much darker lower surface; and from the female of *Sialia sialis sialis* in the more greenish tone of the blue on the upper parts and also usually in the somewhat lighter tone of the anterior under surface. As in the other races of this species, there is considerable individual variation in the color of the blue on the upper surface, and this is exemplified by a male (No. 241,189 U. S. N. M.), which has the blue decidedly darker and more purplish than in the type. Specimens from Fort Clark, Texas, and from El Blanco on the Lower Rio Grande in Texas, belong also to this new race.

Detailed measurements of the good plumaged adults of *Sialia sialis episcopus* now available are as follows:

Museum and Number.	Sex	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Wing.	Tail.	Exposed culmen.	Tarsus.	Middle toe without claw.
U.S.N.M. 241,188	♂	Santa Engracia, Tamaulipas*	Dec. 15, 1911	F. B. Armstrong	99.	65.5	11.	21.5	15.
U.S.N.M. 241,189	♂	Santa Engracia, Tamaulipas	Jan. 1, 1912	F. B. Armstrong	98.5	67.	11.2	19.	14.
U.S.N.M. 134,465	♂	Fort Clark, Texas	Jan. 12, 1893	E. A. Mearns	101.	66.	12.	20.5	16.8
U.S.N.M. 241,190	♀	Santa Engracia, Tamaulipas	Jan. 2, 1912	F. B. Armstrong	93.5	63.	11.	19.3	16.
U.S.N.M. 241,191	♀	Santa Engracia, Tamaulipas	Jan. 3, 1912	F. B. Armstrong	95.	60.	12.	20.5	15.

* Type.